

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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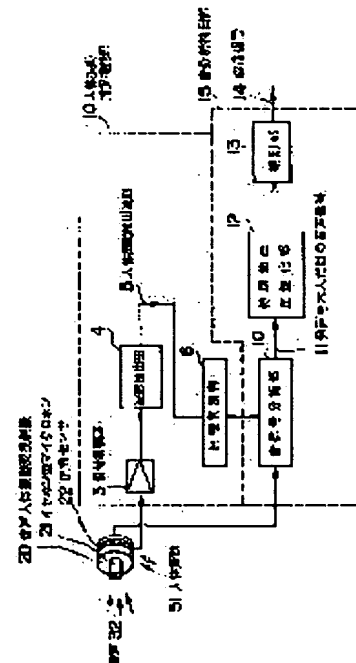
(54) SPEECH INPUT DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve the recognition rate by making it easy to discriminate the voice of a voicing person from an ambient noise.

CONSTITUTION: A voicing person body vibration converting device 20 is equipped integrally with a microphone 21 which inputs and converts a sound into a speech signal and a vibration sensor 22 which inputs and converts the human body vibration of the very voicing person into a vibration signal. The speech input device is equipped with a voicing human body vibration converting device 20 and a sound signal analytic part 10 which analyzes the sound signal by referring to the vibration signal.

Further, the speech input device is preferably equipped with a sound analytic extraction part 15 analyzing a sound signal from the microphone which includes a noise and a human body vibration acquiring function part; and the human body vibration acquiring function part acquires the human body vibration including a sound generated by the glottis, a tooth grinding sound, etc., extracts the human body vibration waveform and compares it with the sound signal analyzed by the sound analytic extraction part 15, and inputs the result to the sound analytic extraction part 15, which analyzes and extracts only the voice of the very voicing person from the sound according to the comparison result.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

- [Claim 1] The voice body oscillating inverter characterized by equipping one with the sound transducer which incorporates a sound and is changed into a sound signal, and the oscillating transducer which incorporates vibration of the generation sources with said main sound, and is changed into an oscillating signal.
- [Claim 2] The voice body oscillating inverter characterized by having a voice body oscillating inverter according to claim 1 and the sound signal analyzer which analyzes said sound signal with reference to said oscillating signal.
- [Claim 3] The sound analytical extraction section which analyzes a sound signal including the noise inputted from the sound transducer which catches a sound, Body vibration The body oscillatory wave form from the oscillating transducer to catch It extracts and has the body oscillating prehension function part which inputs a comparison result into said sound analytical extraction section as compared with the voice as which said sound analytical extraction section was analyzed. Said sound analytical extraction section said comparison result -- being based -- the utterance person from said sound -- the audio input unit characterized by being what carries out [voice / of him] analytical extraction.
- [Claim 4] It is the audio input unit characterized by having a fixed means for fixing the sway sensor fixed to the part to which said oscillating transducer transmits vibration of the body in an audio input unit according to claim 3, and said sway sensor.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] the utterance person from the voice with which this invention caught body vibration of vocal-cords voice, a gear-tooth occlusal sound, etc. with the sway sensor, and the noise was mixed -- it is related with the audio input unit which helps prehension distinction of only his voice.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] By addressing to the microphone placed before the face, the conventional audio input unit is equipment which has inputted the sound signal, and was processing this speech information only based on the sound signal which merely entered from the microphone.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] the audio input unit which leads the microphone placed before this conventional face -- an utterance person -- in order to distinguish his voice and external noise, the voice uttered from vocal cords must be to some extent big. Therefore, the location made into voice input needed to prepare a device into which external noise is not made to input, and the room isolated still more specially.

[0004] then, the technical technical problem of this invention -- an utterance person -- it is in offering the audio input unit which can aim at improvement in a recognition rate, and the voice body oscillating inverter used for it by making it easy to distinguish his voice from people's surrounding voice and surrounding noise, and to extract.

[0005]

[Means for Solving the Problem] According to this invention, the voice body oscillating inverter characterized by equipping one with the sound transducer which incorporates a sound and is changed into a sound signal, and the oscillating transducer which incorporates vibration of the generation sources with said main sound, and is changed into an oscillating signal is obtained.

[0006] According to this invention, the voice body oscillating inverter characterized by having said voice body oscillating inverter and the sound signal analyzer which analyzes said sound signal with reference to said oscillating signal is obtained.

[0007] The sound analytical extraction section which analyzes a sound signal including the noise which is inputted from the sound transducer which catches a sound according to this invention, Body vibration The body oscillatory wave form from the oscillating transducer to catch It extracts and has the body oscillating prehension function part which inputs a comparison result into said sound analytical extraction section as compared with the voice as which said sound analytical extraction section was analyzed. Said sound analytical extraction section said comparison result -- being based -- the utterance person from said sound -- the audio input unit characterized by being what carries out [voice / of him] analytical extraction is obtained.

[0008] According to this invention, in said audio input unit, the audio input unit characterized by said oscillating transducer having the sway sensor fixed to the part which transmits vibration of the body, and a fixed means for fixing said sway sensor is obtained.

[0009] Here, in this invention, the part which transmits well vibration of the sound generated from vocal cords, such as a hole of . external ear, the lug circumference, a front face of a head, and a front face of the face, or a gear-tooth occlusal sound is called at least in a fixed part. Moreover, since it fixes at least to this fixed part, if the cap for fixing to the adhesive tape for fixing to a configuration, a face front face, etc. inserted in the hole of an external ear and a head front face etc. is shown and it can fix to an oscillating transfer part in short as a fixed means, it will not be limited to these.

[0010]

[Function] In the voice body oscillating inverter of this invention, a sound transducer incorporates a sound and changes it into an electrical signal. Moreover, an oscillating transducer incorporates vibration of the generation sources with a main sound, and changes it into an oscillating signal.

[0011] Moreover, the audio input unit of this invention is equipped with said voice body oscillating inverter and the sound signal analyzer, and this sound signal analyzer analyzes said sound signal with reference to said oscillating signal.

[0012] In the audio input unit of this invention, the sound analytical extraction section analyzes a sound signal including the noise which entered from the sound transducer. A body oscillating prehension function part extracts the body oscillatory wave form from the oscillating transducer which catches body vibration, compares the sound signal with which said voice-analysis extract section was analyzed, and inputs a comparison result into said voice-analysis extract section. moreover, said voice-analysis extract section -- said comparison result -- being based -- the utterance person from said voice -- analytical extraction of only his sound signal is carried out.

[0013]

[Example] Next, the example of this invention is explained with reference to a drawing. Drawing 1 is drawing showing the 1st example of this invention. the utterance person out of the voice 58 which includes like illustration the noise which the audio input unit was equipped with a sway sensor 2, the body oscillating prehension function part 10, and the sound analytical extraction section 15 as a microphone 1 and an oscillating transducer as a sound transducer, and entered

from the microphone 1 by making into a body oscillating extract wave body vibration 5 which entered from the sway sensor 2 — it is the configuration of selecting only his voice 11. That is, vibration generated from vocal cords with voice utterance is transmitted in the body. The vibration is transmitted in the hole of an external ear, the circumference of a lug, or the front face of a face as body vibration 51. and body vibration — propagation — being easy — fixing with the fixed means which responded at least to the fixed part of inserting a sway sensor 2 in a place, or inserting into the frame of glasses etc., and fixing — a generating person — his body vibration 51 is caught. The caught oscillating signal is inputted into the body oscillating function part 10. In this body oscillating function part 10, that minute oscillating signal is amplified by the signal amplifier 3, and is inputted into the wave extract section 4. the body oscillating extract wave which is easy to compare with a sound signal from the strength of the body vibration 51 etc. in the wave extract section 4 — 5 is extracted and it inputs into the comparison distinction section 6. On the other hand, his voice 58 including a noise lets a microphone 9 pass, is changed into a sound signal, and is inputted into the sound analytical extraction section 15. In the sound analytical extraction section 15, a sound signal inputs into the sound signal analyzer 10 first. the utterance person out of the voice 8 which included the noise in this analyzer 10 — the big sound signal more than level which exists [noise / his voice, a surrounding man's voice,] is gathered about one, and analytical extraction of the wave of those sound signals is carried out. the wave of the shoes carry out analytical extraction here — the comparison distinction section 6 of the body oscillating prehension function part 7 — a body oscillating extract wave — comparison distinction is carried out with 5 — having — an utterance person — only his sound signal 11 is selected and it is specially sent out to the extract normalization section 12 from the analyzer 10. Then, it normalizes, is classified in the category section 13, becomes the recognition signal 14, and becomes the input of the information processor which this recognition signal 14 does not illustrate.

[0014] Drawing 2 is the perspective view showing the voice body oscillating inverter of the audio input unit concerning the 2nd example of this invention. In drawing 2 R> 2, the voice body oscillating inverter 20 has the configuration which built the sway sensor 22 into the so-called earphone mold microphone 21 which adjusted to one microphone 1 parts of the sway sensor 1 of an oscillating transducer, and a voice transducer shown by drawing 1 . It is specifically made by the earphone form which is easy to insert in the hole of the external ear part of a lug, and consists of voice incorporation openings 25 prepared at the sway sensor 22 built into the disc-like reliance part 23 for the cavum conchae, and its part 23 so that it might become perpendicular to the medial axis of this disk, and the external-auditory-meatus insertion part 24 and tip of the shape of a cylinder further projected in the end section.

[0015] Drawing 3 is the block diagram showing the audio input unit concerning the 2nd example of this invention. Like illustration, the voice body oscillating inverter 20 shown in drawing 2 instead of the microphone of drawing 1 and a sway sensor is being used for an audio input unit. Others have the same configuration. The minute signal which gathered and detected the body vibration 51 through the sway

sensor 22 specifically built into the voice body oscillating inverter 20 inserted in a lug is amplified by the signal amplifier 3, and is inputted into the wave extract section 4. the body oscillating extract wave which is easy to compare with a sound signal from the strength of the body vibration 51 etc. in the wave extract section 4 -- the extract plastic surgery of 5 is carried out, and it inputs into the comparison distinction section 6. On the other hand, the voice 32 including a noise goes into the sound signal analyzer 10 through the earphone mold microphone 21 of the voice body oscillating inverter 20. the utterance person out of the voice 32 which included the noise in this analyzer 10 -- the loud voice more than level which exists [noise / his voice, a surrounding man's voice,] is gathered about one, and analytical extraction of the wave of those sound signals is carried out. the wave of the shoes carry out analytical extraction here -- the comparison distinction section 6 of the body oscillating prehension function part 10 -- a body oscillating extract wave -- comparison distinction is carried out with 5 -- having -- an utterance person -- only his sound signal 11 is selected and it is specially sent out to the extract normalization section 12 from the analyzer 10. Then, it normalizes, is classified in the category section 12, becomes the recognition signal 14, and inputs into the information processor which this recognition signal 14 does not illustrate.

[0016] in addition, the case where the earphone mold microphone 21 is used -- an utterance person -- since it can catch from an external ear and external noise stops being able to enter easily, without taking out also at once the sound and gear-tooth occlusal sound which were generated from his vocal cords to the outside of the body, it can consider as the input of the information processor which does not change and illustrate clearly the small voice which is murmur extent to a recognition signal, either.

[0017]

[Effect of the Invention] in the above, it explained -- as -- this invention -- an utterance person -- by shaping in waveform body vibration transmitted with the voice generated from vocal cords to the body oscillating extract wave which is easy to compare with voice, in order to make his voice, other voice, and a noise easy to distinguish the comparison distinction section -- the utterance person out of a noise, others' voice, etc. -- a comparison distinction extract can be carried out [voice / of only him], and the recognition signal by which the extract category was carried out with the audio input unit can be considered as the input of an information processor.

[0018] Moreover, in this invention, voice input can be made into a recognition signal according to the above effectiveness, without making the next man trouble, without receiving effect in the next man's voice also in ordinary office. The voice input to an information processor of receiving effect in them even in a place with still more noises becomes possible few.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram showing the audio input unit concerning the 1st example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the perspective view showing the voice body oscillating inverter used for the audio input unit concerning the 2nd example of this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the block diagram of the audio input unit concerning the 2nd example of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

1 Microphone

2 22 Sway sensor

3 Signal Amplifier

4 Wave Extract Section

5 Body Oscillating Extract Wave

6 Comparison Distinction Section

7 Body Oscillating Prehension Function Part

10 Sound Signal Analyzer

11 Utterance Person -- Only His Sound Signal

12 It is Extract Normalization Section Specially.

13 Category Section

14 Recognition Signal

20 Voice Body Oscillating Inverter

21 Earphone Mold Microphone

23 Reliance Part for Cavum Conchae

24 External-Auditory-Meatus Insertion Part

25 Voice Incorporation Opening

32 Voice

51 Body Vibration

58 His Voice and Noise

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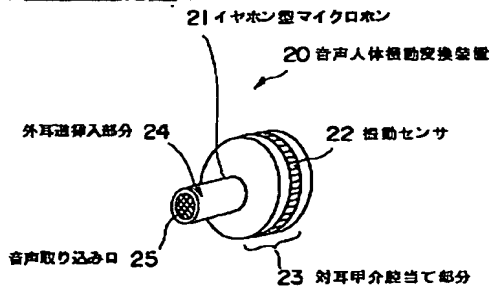
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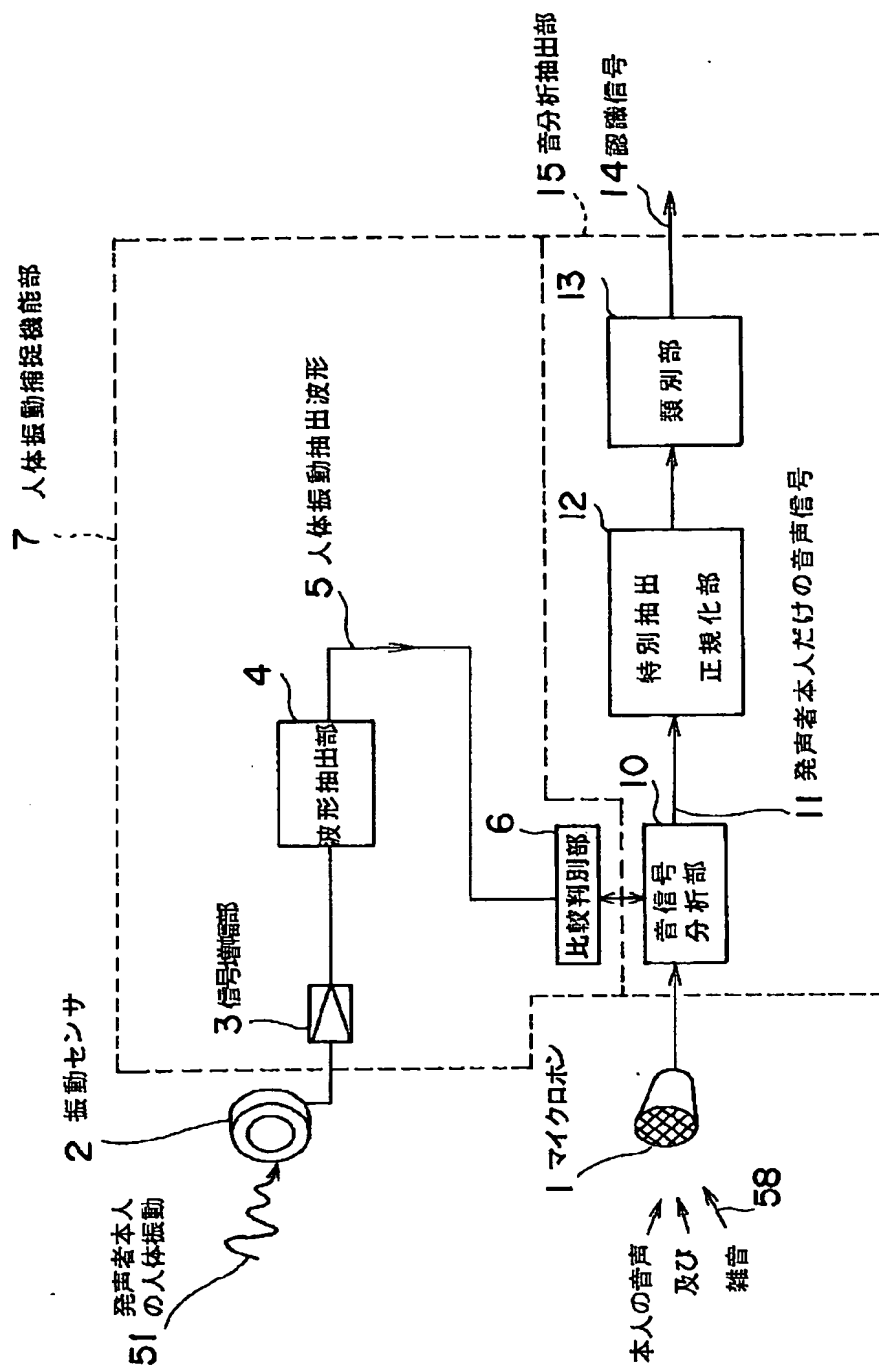
DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1]

[Drawing 2]



[Drawing 3]



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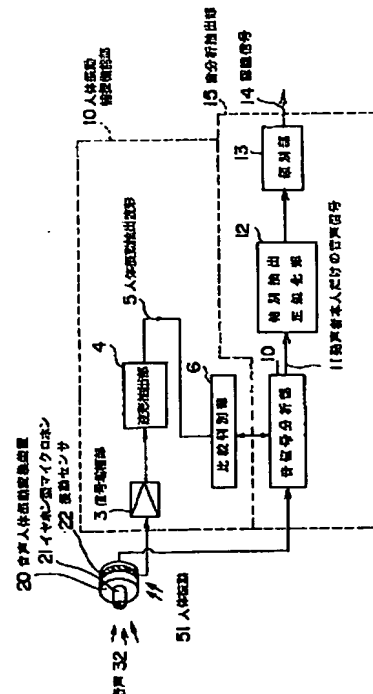
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(54)【発明の名称】 音声入力装置

(57)【要約】 (修正有)

【目的】 発声者本人の音声周囲雑音から区別し抽出しやすくし認識率の向上を図る音声入力装置とそれに用いる人体振動捕捉装置及び音声人体振動変換装置。

【構成】 音声人体振動変換装置20は、音を取り込み音声信号に変換するマイクロホン21と、発生者本人の人体振動を取り込み振動信号に変換する振動センサ22とを一体に備える。音声入力装置は、音声人体振動変換装置20と振動信号を参照して前記音信号を分析する音信号分析部10を備え、音声入力装置は、マイクロホンからの雑音を含む音信号を分析する音分析抽出部15と、人体振動捕捉機能部10とを備え、人体振動捕捉機能部10は、声帯から発生された音及び歯咬音等を含む人体振動を捕え、人体振動波形を抽出し、音分析抽出部15の分析された音信号とを比較し、音分析抽出部15に入力、その比較結果により、前記音から発声者本人の音声のみを分析抽出する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1】 音を取り込み音信号に変換する音変換部と、前記音の主な発生源の振動を取り込み振動信号に変換する振動変換部とを一体に備えていることを特徴とする音声人体振動変換装置。

【請求項 2】 請求項 1 記載の音声人体振動変換装置と、前記振動信号を参照して前記音信号を分析する音信号分析部とを備えていることを特徴とする音声人体振動変換装置。

【請求項 3】 音を捕捉する音変換部から入力する雑音を含む音信号を分析する音分析抽出部と、人体振動を捕捉する振動変換部からの人体振動波形を抽出し、前記音分析抽出部の分析された音声と比較し、比較結果を前記音分析抽出部に入力する人体振動捕捉機能部とを備え、前記音分析抽出部は、前記比較結果に基づいて、前記音から発声者本人の音声のみを分析抽出するものであることを特徴とする音声入力装置。

【請求項 4】 請求項 3 記載の音声入力装置において、前記振動変換部は、人体の振動を伝達する部位に固定される振動センサと、前記振動センサを固定するための固定手段とを有することを特徴とする音声入力装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】**【0001】**

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は声帯音声や歯咬音等の人体振動を振動センサで捕捉し、雑音の混じった音声から発声者本人だけの音声の捕捉判別を助ける音声入力装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】従来の音声入力装置は、顔面の前に置かれたマイクロホンに対して話しかけることにより音声信号を入力している装置であり、ただマイクロホンから入ってきた音声信号のみに基づいて、この音声情報を処理していた。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】この従来の顔面の前に置かれたマイクロホンを通じての音声入力装置では、発声者本人の音声と外部雑音を区別するには、声帯から発声する音声はある程度大きなものでなければならない。従って、音声入力とする場所は、外部雑音を入力させないような工夫と、さらには特別に隔離された部屋を用意する必要があった。

【0004】そこで、本発明の技術的課題は、発声者本人の音声を周囲の人の音声や雑音から区別して抽出し易くすることにより認識率の向上を図ることができる音声入力装置とそれに用いる音声人体振動変換装置を提供することにある。

【0005】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明によれば、音を取り込み音信号に変換する音変換部と、前記音の主な発生源の振動を取り込み振動信号に変換する振動変換部とを

一体に備えていることを特徴とする音声人体振動変換装置が得られる。

【0006】本発明によれば、前記音声人体振動変換装置と、前記振動信号を参照して前記音信号を分析する音信号分析部とを備えていることを特徴とする音声人体振動変換装置が得られる。

【0007】本発明によれば、音を捕捉する音変換部から入力する雑音を含む音信号を分析する音分析抽出部と、人体振動を捕捉する振動変換部からの人体振動波形を抽出し、前記音分析抽出部の分析された音声と比較し、比較結果を前記音分析抽出部に入力する人体振動捕捉機能部とを備え、前記音分析抽出部は、前記比較結果に基づいて、前記音から発声者本人の音声のみを分析抽出するものであることを特徴とする音声入力装置が得られる。

【0008】本発明によれば、前記音声入力装置において、前記振動変換部は、人体の振動を伝達する部位に固定される振動センサと、前記振動センサを固定するための固定手段とを有することを特徴とする音声入力装置が得られる。

【0009】ここで、本発明において、固定部位とは、外耳の穴、耳周辺、頭部の表面、顔面の表面等の声帯から発生した音もしくは歯咬音の振動を良く伝達する部位を呼ぶ。また、固定手段としては、この固定部位に固定するために外耳の穴に挿入する形状、顔面表面等に固定するための粘着テープ、頭部表面に固定するためのキャップ等を示し、要するに振動伝達部位に固定できれば、これらに限定されるものではない。

【0010】

【作用】本発明の音声人体振動変換装置において、音変換部は、音を取り込み電気信号に変換する。また、振動変換部は、音の主な発生源の振動を取り込み振動信号に変換する。

【0011】また、本発明の音声入力装置は、前記音声人体振動変換装置と音信号分析部とを備え、この音信号分析部は、前記振動信号を参照して、前記音信号を分析する。

【0012】本発明の音声入力装置において、音分析抽出部は、音変換部から入った雑音を含む音信号を分析する。人体振動捕捉機能部は、人体振動を捕らえる振動変換部からの人体振動波形を抽出し、前記音声分析抽出部の分析された音信号とを比較し、比較結果を前記音声分析抽出部に入力する。また、前記音声分析抽出部は、前記比較結果に基づいて、前記音声から発声者本人のみの音信号を分析抽出する。

【0013】

【実施例】次に本発明の実施例について図面を参照して説明する。図 1 は本発明の第 1 実施例を示す図である。図示のように、音声入力装置は、音変換部として、マイクロホン 1、振動変換部として振動センサ 2 と人体振動

捕捉機能部 10 及び音分析抽出部 15 とを備え、振動センサ 2 から入ってきた人体振動 5 を人体振動抽出波形としてマイクロホン 1 から入ってきた雑音を含む音声 58 の中から発声者本人の音声 11 だけを選び出す構成である。即ち、音声発声とともに声帯から発生した振動は人体を伝わる。その振動は人体振動 5 1 として外耳の穴や耳の周辺、または顔の表面などを伝わる。そして、人体振動が伝わり易い所に振動センサ 2 を挿入したり、メガネのフレームなどに挟んで固定する等の固定部位に応じた固定手段で固定することにより、発声者本人の人体振動 5 1 をキャッチする。キャッチされた振動信号は、人体振動機能部 10 に入力される。この人体振動機能部 10 では、その微小な振動信号を信号増幅部 3 で増幅し、波形抽出部 4 に入力する。波形抽出部 4 では人体振動 5 1 の強弱等から音信号と比較しやすい人体振動抽出波形 5 を抽出し、比較判別部 6 に入力する。一方、雑音を含んだ本人の音声 58 はマイクロホン 9 を通して、音信号に変換されて音分析抽出部 15 に入力する。音分析抽出部 15 では、まず、音信号が音信号分析部 10 に入力する。この分析部 10 では、雑音を含んだ音声 8 の中から、発声者本人の音声と周囲の人の声や雑音などのある一程レベル以上の大きな音声信号を拾い、それらの音信号の波形を分析抽出する。ここで分析抽出されたいくつかの波形は人体振動捕捉機能部 7 の比較判別部 6 で人体振動抽出波形 5 と比較判別されて発声者本人だけの音声信号 11 が選び出され、分析部 10 から特別抽出正規化部 12 に送り出される。そこで正規化され類別部 13 で類別され認識信号 14 となり、この認識信号 14 が図示しない情報処理装置の入力となる。

【0014】図 2 は本発明の第 2 の実施例に係る音声入力装置の音声人体振動変換装置を示す斜視図である。図 2 において、音声人体振動変換装置 20 は、図 1 で示す振動変換部の振動センサ 1 と音声変換部のマイクロホン 1 部分を一つに取りまとめた、いわゆる、イヤホン型マイクロホン 21 に振動センサ 22 を組み込んだ構成を有する。具体的には、耳の外耳部分の穴に挿入しやすいイヤホン形に作られており、円板状の対耳甲介腔当て部分 23 とその部分 23 に、この円板の中心軸に垂直となるように、組み込まれた振動センサ 22、さらに、一端部に突出した円筒状の外耳道挿入部分 24 とその先端に設けられた音声取り込み口 25 から構成されている。

【0015】図 3 は本発明の第 2 の実施例に係る音声入力装置を示すブロック図である。図示のように、音声入力装置は、図 1 のマイクロホン及び振動センサの代りに図 2 に示す音声人体振動変換装置 20 を使用している。他は同様の構成を有する。具体的には、耳に挿入した音声人体振動変換装置 20 に組み込んだ振動センサ 22 を通して人体振動 5 1 を拾い、検出した微小信号を信号増幅部 3 で増幅し、波形抽出部 4 に入力する。波形抽出部 4 では人体振動 5 1 の強弱等から音信号と比較しやすい

人体振動抽出波形 5 を抽出整形し、比較判別部 6 に入力する。一方、雑音を含んだ音声 32 は、音声人体振動変換装置 20 のイヤホン型マイクロホン 21 を通して音信号分析部 10 に入る。この分析部 10 では雑音を含んだ音声 32 の中から発声者本人の音声と周囲の人の声や雑音などのある一程レベル以上の大きな音声信号を拾い、それらの音信号の波形を分析抽出する。ここで分析抽出されたいくつかの波形は人体振動捕捉機能部 10 の比較判別部 6 で人体振動抽出波形 5 と比較判別されて発声者本人だけの音声信号 11 が選び出され分析部 10 から特別抽出正規化部 12 に送り出される。そこで正規化され類別部 12 で類別され認識信号 14 となり、この認識信号 14 が図示しない情報処理装置に入力する。

【0016】尚、イヤホン型マイクロホン 21 を用いた場合、発声者本人の声帯から発生した音や歯咬音を一度も体外に出すことなく外耳から捕えることができ、外部雑音が入り込みにくくなる為、呟き程度の小さな声も明瞭に認識信号に変えて図示しない情報処理装置の入力とすることができる。

【0017】

【発明の効果】以上、説明したように本発明では発声者本人の音声と他の音声や雑音を区別しやすくする為に、声帯から発生される音声とともに伝わる人体振動を音声と比較しやすい人体振動抽出波形に波形整形することにより、比較判別部で雑音や他人の音声などの中から発声者本人だけの音声を比較判別抽出することができ、音声入力装置で抽出類別された認識信号は情報処理装置の入力とすることができる。

【0018】また、本発明では、以上のような効果により、普通のオフィスでも隣の人の音声に影響を受けることなく、また隣りの人に迷惑をかけることもなく音声入力を認識信号とすることができる。さらに雑音の多い所でもそれらに影響を受けることが少なく情報処理装置に対する音声入力が可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図 1】本発明の第 1 の実施例に係る音声入力装置を示すブロック図である。

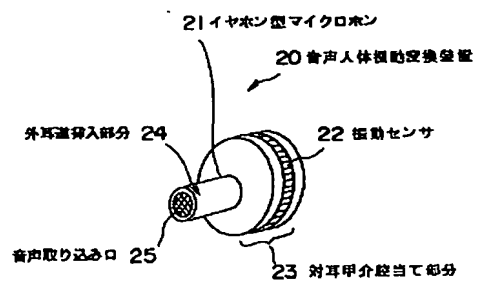
【図 2】本発明の第 2 の実施例に係る音声入力装置に使用する音声人体振動変換装置を示す斜視図である。

【図 3】本発明の第 2 の実施例に係る音声入力装置のブロック図である。

【符号の説明】

- 1 マイクロホン
- 2, 22 振動センサ
- 3 信号増幅部
- 4 波形抽出部
- 5 人体振動抽出波形
- 6 比較判別部
- 7 人体振動捕捉機能部
- 10 音信号分析部

【図 2】



【図 3】

